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The past two months have been exceptionally prolific in the production of important books of travels and adventures, but the list includes perhaps no work possessing as much attraction and as permanent a value for American readers as Colonel Dodge's description of "THE PLAINS OF THE GREAT WEST AND THEIR INHABITANTS." To the sportsman and the naturalist the account of the natural features and the game of the plains are full of the keenest interest, and will be found accurate and trustworthy; but the most valuable portion of the volume is that devoted to the life, customs and character of the Indians. The *Edinburgh Review* say that "*Since Catlin, no such valuable book has appeared as this.*" Col. Dodge's views on the treatment of Indians are clear, thoughtful, and convincing, and can but exercise an important influence on the policy of the government.

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PUBLISHERS' NOTES.

BRYANT'S FLOOD OF YEARS is to be published before the close of the year in a handsome small quarto-volume, with illustrations designed and engraved by the artist-engraver, W. J. Linton.

This is the last poem that has come to us from the pen of the veteran poet, and according to many critics, it is one of his very highest and strongest productions. In its train of thought, as well as in the depth of its pathos, and the vividness of its life-pictures, it will recall to the reader the *Thanatopsis* which more than half a century ago established on a firm foundation the fame of its youthful author; but the range of its thought is wider, and the strokes with which the pictures are drawn are firmer and more vigorous. The philosophy of the two poems is however the same, and so also is their faith. The description of the tumultuous "flood of years" that undermines "this grief-shadowed Present," is closed by a picture of

> "A Present in whose reign no grief shall gnaw
> The heart, and never shall a tender tie
> Be broken—in whose reign the eternal change
> That waits on growth and action shall proceed
> With everlasting concord hand in hand."

The designs of Mr. Linton, in their varied imagery and weird suggestiveness, are fully in accord with the thought and feeling of the poem, and the work, as well in the majesty of its subject as in the appropriateness and beauty of the form which has been given to it, is believed to be one of the most important and attractive ever offered to the American public.

FROTHINGHAM'S LIFE OF GERRIT SMITH. Biography is the foundation of History, and it possesses also a personal interest which gives a value peculiar to itself. The life of any true man, however modest his attainments and moderate his achievements, would often be found, if it could be fairly known, to be better worth careful study than a whole decade of glittering campaigns.

The subject of Mr. Frothingham's biography well deserves the appellation of a "true man," but his life was neither quiet nor undistinguished. He was an earnest philanthropist, a devoted worker in the anti-slavery cause, and a clear-headed man of business, who had an active and important part to play in the history and development of his native State, and in the reform movements of the whole country. Mr. Frothingham has had access to all the papers and correspondence pertaining to his subject, but has wisely avoided the error that is so apt to impair the attractiveness of volumes of memoirs, the introduction, namely, of a mass of material which possesses a limited, rather than a general interest, and which spoils the proportion of the work. His volume is of moderate compass, and presents in an artistic narrative the story of a life of unique character and value.

HOW SHALL THE NATION REGAIN PROSPERITY? is the "telling" title of the forthcoming volume by David A. Wells, which has for its topic the essential dependence of national prosperity upon clear-headed, common-sense national economy.

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As a part of the same general question, and a part also of the fight of the men of thought and the men of practical experience against the muddle-headed and ruinous legislation, are the works of Henry R. Linderman (Director of the U. S. Mint), on MONEY AND LEGAL TENDER IN THE UNITED STATES, and of Prof. J. M. Sturtevant on ECONOMICS, OR, THE SCIENCE OF WEALTH.

These are books that should be in the hands of the average Congressman, who holds in his hands so much of the prosperity of the Nation, and if the average Congressman refuses to be instructed, the average voter will find it good economy to hire a better article to represent him.

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Before another number of the LIBRARY COMPANION has been given to our readers, the Holiday Season of 1877 will have come and gone, and it is therefore fitting in this issue to call attention to some of the new books for the Young People, which (while we trust they are of such permanent value as to remain in demand throughout the entire year), are naturally in special requisition towards Christmas:—

Geo. Cary Eggleston, whose *Big Brother* and *Captain Sam* have in previous seasons delighted adventure-loving boys, has this year added to the Big Brother Series THE SIGNAL BOYS, or, Captain Sam's Company a story of the War of 1812.

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A companion volume to the above is THE ENCHANTED MOCCASINS, which comprises a collection of the Legends of the American Indians, compiled from original sources by Cornelius Mathews.

A book like this is in fact the first volume of the History of American Literature.

The author of that quaint and home-like little volume, *The House with Spectacles*, has this year added to it PATSY, a story of the home-life of a little girl. It will be found to possess a personal interest to the large circle of little girls who are afflicted with "botherations."

Of a similar character is the life-like record of SIX SINNERS, by Wheaton Campbell, a volume that, while not in the least didactic, carries with it some serviceable lessons.

Mrs. Marie Field has adapted from the French some exceptionally graceful little stories entitled THE WINGS OF COURAGE. In their delicate fancifulness they form a curious antithesis to the characteristically American tales before mentioned.

Last, but not least, the immortal BUDGE AND TODDIE have managed to get their faces washed, and themselves into holiday attire, and the record of their haps and mishaps, amusingly illustrated by the pencil of Lucy Morse, forms one of the thoroughly attractive gift-books of the year. It is grouped under the children's books, as the boys and girls will certainly take delight in it, but it is after all the fond parents to whom Mr. Habberton's life-like and amusing delineations give the keenest pleasure. The volume is, it should be understood, new only as to this holiday shape, it being the illustrated edition of that now famous book, *Other People's Children.*

IN ANDERSON'S SILVER COUNTRY we have a description of the region formerly known as "New Spain," which includes Northern Mexico, New Mexico, Nevada, Arizonia, Utah, and part of California. The volume is principally descriptive and statistical, but a suggestion of the romance that properly belongs to the subject is given in the earlier chapters on the Aztec settlements and the Spanish invasion, and in the references to that prolific source of law-suits in the south-west, the Spanish land-grants. The statistics themselves are of very considerable importance, relating as they do to a region that produces about half the silver supply of the world, and they certainly go to show that in *New* Spain "castles" might have some substantial foundation to rest upon. Besides the information upon the products of the mines, Mr. Anderson gives a full report of the other resources of the region, and devotes some little space to a consideration of the proposed railroad routes, and of the results that they can be looked for if the present plans as to these are carried into effect. While giving the statistics of subjects of such timely importance as silver and South Western railroads, the work has no theories to advocate or to propound as to the vexed questions of government subsidies and remonitization. It is solely a work of information, prepared for the benefit of those who, like Rosa Dartle, "want to know," a class which includes, it is to be hoped, national legislators and a good many thousands besides.

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The volume of Dr. Linderman, Director of the Mint, on MONEY AND LEGAL TENDER IN THE UNITED STATES, referred to in the last number of the "Companion," has been accepted, during the discussion of the Silver Question, as the standard authority on the facts relating to the history of the currency, and as the most comprehensive of the more compact treatises on the subject.

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A taste that was the fashion in the times of Madame de Pompadour and Horace Walpole, has been revived today, and some knowledge of Pottery and Porcelain is again considered "in good society" an almost necessary accomplishment, while there is a widespread and increasing interest in the study of the art of Ceramic decoration. For those wishing to inform themselves only of the leading facts in the history of Ceramic art, and in the nature of the classifications of Pottery and Porcelain, Mrs. Lockwood's HAND-BOOK OF CERAMIC ART will be found a most convenient manual, while to those who propose to make a more exhaustive study of the subject, her volume will prove of good service as an introduction and guide to the larger works.

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There has been in existence for some years in New York an association called the N. Y. Canoe Club. It has, as its name implies, authority to own and to use canoes, and it has accomplished a certain amount of business in this direction, with much satisfaction and probably some profit to its members. The record of a series of trips in Canada, made principally by C. L. Norton, F. H. Upton, W. S. Alden (the sixth column man of the *Times*), and John Habberton, has been put into book shape by Norton and Habberton, with numerous illustrations by Norton and Upton, under the title of CANOEING IN KANUCKIA. The narrative is stirring and mirth-provoking, and will serve to add to our knowledge of the neighboring Dominion, as well as to call attention to the charms of the noble art of canoeing.

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